

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 SS-15 /017 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS: JMORDWAY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 039040 TOSEC 020169

FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, SUNDAY, FEB 20

NO. 30

NO SIGNIFICANT WIRE SERVICE REPORTING SEEN SINCE LAST
CABLE.

ONLY NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE THIS MORNING WERE POST AND TIMES.

NEW YORK TIMES

LEAD STORY; PAGE 1. HEADLINE: "HUSSEIN RELUCTANT TO
FORM PLO LINK BEFORE ARAB ASSENT"

BERNARD GWERTZMAN FROM RIYADH

LEAD: "KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN HAS TOLD SECRETARY OF
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STATE CYRUS R. VANCE THAT HE IS RELUCTANT TO FORGE A
LINK WITH THE PLO UNTIL KEY ARAB LEADERS FORMALLY JOIN
WITH PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT OF EGYPT IN PROPOSING
SUCH A MOVE TO OVERCOME THE MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMATIC
DEADLOCK."

OTHER POINTS:

-- REPORTERS ON VANCE'S PLANE WERE TOLD HUSSEIN WARNED SECSTATE AGAINST OVEROPTIMISM ON EARLY BREAKTHROUGH.

-- KING TOLD VANCE RAISED EXPECTATIONS, UNFULFILLED, COULD LEAD TO UNREST IN AREA.

-- HUSSEIN NEITHER ENDORSED NOR REJECTED SADAT PLAN.

-- SINCE RABAT MEETING HAD GIVEN PLO RESPONSIBILITY, HUSSEIN FEELS BOUND AND WILL NOT TAKE LEAD IN MAKING ANY ARRANGEMENT WITH PLO.

-- REPORTERS WERE TOLD THAT ARAB LEADERS MIGHT MEET IN COMING WEEKS, AND THAT THERE WAS AN ACTIVE DISCUSSION BEHIND THE SCENES ON BEST WAY TO OVERCOME PALESTINIAN OBSTACLE.

-- VANCE CONTINUING FACT-FINDING IN SAUDI ARABIA.

-- MISSION CLOUDED BY WASHPOST ARTICLE ON CIA PAYMENTS TO USSEIN.

-- VANCE, AT AIRPORT DEPARTURE, SOUGHT TO CALM JORDANIAN SENSITIVITY.

-- STOP OVER IN BEIRUT.

WASHINGTON POST
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STORY ON PAGE ONE; HEADLINE: "HUSSEIN WARNS VANCE AGAINST OVEROPTIMISM"

DON OBERDORFER FROM RIYADH

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE WAS CAUTIONED TODAY AGAINST RAISING UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS FOR AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. IF SOARING EXPECTATIONS ARE NOT MET, HE WAS TOLD BY KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN, THE DISILLUSIONMENT COULD BE 'UN-HELPFUL AND DANGEROUS.'"

OBERDORFER CONTINUED WITH FOLLOWING:

HUSSEIN'S WARNING WAS MADE KNOWN IN A SESSION WITH REPORTERS UNDER 'BACKGROUND' RULES OF ATTRIBUTION BY A SENIOR US OFFICIAL AS VANCE'S PLANE FLEW TOWARD CONFER-

ENCES HERE WITH LEADERS OF SAUDI ARABIA. THE IDENTITY OF THE OFFICIAL CANNOT BE REPORTED UNDER THE RULES, BUT HIS DUTIES ARE JUST ABOUT THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE FAMOUS 'SENIOR OFFICIAL' WHO FORMERLY TRAVELED ABROAD IN HENRY A. KISSINGER'S PARTY.

"EARLY IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, VANCE MADE IT KNOWN THAT THE 'SENIOR OFFICIAL' HAD BEEN RETIRED FROM SERVICE IN FAVOR OF ON-THE-RECORD BRIEFINGS. PRESS STATEMENTS "OR DIRECT QUOTATION FROM A SECRETARY OF STATE, HOWEVER, CAN CAUSE A DIPLOMATIC TEMPEST IF NOT PHRASED WITH EXTRAORDINARY CARE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- "THE US OFFICIAL" STILL DECLINED TO COMMENT ON WASHPOST STORY ON PAYMENTS TO HUSSEIN, EVIDENTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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REFLECTING POLICY DECISION THAT THE LESS SAID ABOUT IT, THE BETTER.

-- VANCE ANNOUNCED HUSSEIN TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN APRIL, AND WENT OUT OF WAY TO PRAISE HUSSEIN.

-- NO WAY TO ASSESS, AT THIS POINT, DAMAGE OF POST STORY ON HUSSEIN'S STANDING IN JORDAN AND ARAB WORLD.

-- STORY WAS MAKING ITS WAY INTO JORDAN VIA ISRAELI RADIO BROADCASTS.

-- HUSSEIN'S POSITION DELICATE FOR MANY YEARS.

-- VANCE AND HUSSEIN TALKED ABOUT SADAT PROPOSAL, BUT HUSSEIN FEELS OTHER PLANS MUST BE CONSIDERED.

-- SR OFFICIAL SAID HUSSEIN HAS KEPT IN TOUCH WITH PLO THINKING.

-- PLO CONFERRING WITH ALMOST ALL LEADERS VANCE IS SEEING.

-- PLO REPRESENTATIVES HAVE TOLD REPORTERS THAT ARAFAT'S TRAVELS ARE RELATED TO VANCE MISSION, GIVING RISE TO SPECULATION THAT ARAFAT IS TRYING TO INFLUENCE LEADERS' POSITIONS ON PALESTINIANS IN TALKS WITH VANCE.

-- ACCORDING TO THE SR OFFICIAL, SARKIS RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT LEBANON MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN GENEVA CONFERENCE. VANCE SAID US HAS NO OBJECTION, BUT MUST BE APPROVED BY

OTHER NATIONS CONCERNED.

-- VANCE TO MEET WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS ON ISSUES INCLUDING
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AS WELL AS ARAB-ISRAELI
PEACE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Executive Order: N/A
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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a4ff2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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